

MINUTES

UTAH PSYCHOLOGY LICENSING BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2006

**Room 402 – 4th Floor – 2:30 P.M.
Heber Wells Building**

CONVENED: 2:32 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 4:35 P.M.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Noel Taxin
Karen McCall

Board Members Present:

John F. Merryweather, PhD
Natalie J. Malovich, PhD
Bruce N. Carpenter, PhD
Lori G. Buhler, Public Member
Leonard J. Haas, PhD, Chairperson

Guests:

Nanci Klein, PhD, Director of Professional Affairs,
UPA

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Read and approve the October 3, 2006 Minutes.

Dr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes with minor revisions. Dr. Merryweather seconded the motion. **The Board vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

APA Recommendations Regarding Post-Doctorate Training

Ms. Taxin distributed information received at the ASPPB Conference, a copy of a letter from Steve McCutcheon, PhD, Chair, APPIC Board of Directors, a paper from Stephen T. DeMers, EdD, ASPPB Executive Officer and the October 31, 2005 ASPPB Response to Workgroup Report on Education and Training Leading to Licensure from Catherine Yarrow, MBA, PhD, President and Stephen T. DeMers, EdD, Executive Officer.

Ms. Taxin stated that she attended the ASPPB Conference where there was discussion regarding pre-doctorate hours and post-doctorate hours. Ms. Taxin stated that the State of Washington changed their Law to accept all hours completed pre-doctorate. She stated that Washington is having some problems with the change. She stated that the majority of the States voiced concern about reducing the requirement of pre-doctorate hours and post-doctorate hours to accept only pre-doctorate hours based on the lack of research.

Dr. Klein commented that the information was sent and reviewed a year ago.

Ms. Taxin and Dr. Haas responded that some of the information was current.

Dr. Haas stated that he called Dr. DeMers to summarize the issues and was informed that the biggest concern for ASPPB is clarification of the pre-doctorate hours.

Ms. Taxin commented that she was asked to speak at the ASPPB Conference and stated that the Utah Board discussed the issue and voted to accept pre-doctorate hours. She stated that many people at the Conference were surprised that Utah would consider pre-doctorate hours only. Ms. Taxin stated that she felt uninformed on the issue. Ms. Taxin stated that based on the feedback from the conference she contacted Dr. DeMers and asked him to write a clarification of the pre-doctorate hours Law proposal change. Ms. Taxin stated that Dr. DeMers response was distributed to each Board member.

Dr. Haas asked how the pre-doctorate hours of training would be clarified and if licensees would have the mobility of licensing in other States. He stated that the profession is getting licensing requirements more uniform for easier licensing in other States. Dr. Haas stated that Washington State has different standards which contribute to their problems.

Ms. Taxin stated that part of the issue on the pre-

doctorate experience is the cost to the student or new graduate. In order to defer their loans they have to be in school which costs the student more if they have already completed the education requirements but have not graduated yet. Ms. Taxin stated that mobility of the license is a concern as the States that require post-doctorate hours will not accept the Utah licensee who completed their experience pre-doctorate. Ms. Taxin stated, to date, the majority of the States require post-doctorate experience.

Ms. Taxin stated that she has discussed the issues with the Division Director, Craig Jackson, and Mr. Jackson is supportive of continuing the requirements as they now stand with 2000 hours experience obtained pre-doctorate and 2000 hours experience obtained post-doctorate. She stated that Mr. Jackson is of the opinion that a change in the Utah Law for all hours of experience to be obtained pre-doctorate is premature based on all information received.

Ms. Taxin stated that the ASPPB Conference also discussed the quality of the training for the pre-doctorate hours and the post-doctorate hours. She stated that the profession is trying to increase the scope of practice to include practice with pharmaceutical's.

Dr. Klein responded that Psychologists cannot qualify for the pharmaceutical training (RXP) until they have been in licensed practice for a minimum of 5 years. She explained that the RXP does not involve pre-doctorate training or qualifications. Dr. Klein stated that the Psychologist with the RXP practice would be able to practice in rural locations and reduce their education debt.

3:00 P.M. – Dr. Malovich arrived at the meeting.

Dr. Haas stated that the Board could review APA draft language on what the pre-doctorate requirements would be when the information is available.

Dr. Haas asked if any Board members had any

comments regarding mobility of licensure.

Dr. Klein responded that there is a model licensing task force that is meeting and working on producing a model act that will include practicum and clinical training requirements to be completed prior to the time the PhD degree is awarded.

Dr. Klein stated that the mobility of licensure issue is tied to the option of all experience hours to be completed prior to receiving the doctorate degree, sit for the EPPP examination and then complete the licensing requirements of other States. She stated that some graduates may not have completed all the experience requirements and those individuals would apply for the Psychology Resident license to complete their hours. Dr. Klein concluded that those who have completed their experience hours would then go to the rural areas to work and would be able to start paying off their school loans immediately.

Dr. Haas stated that the mobility of the license to other States would depend on the licensing requirements of the other States. He stated that the Board and Ms. Taxin would have to review and revise the Rules to specify the nature of qualifying experience.

Dr. Carpenter commented that the intent is for people to have the practicum and clinical hours with the Doctorate degree to qualify for licensing. Dr. Carpenter stated that the training is more like a private practice than the practicum. Dr. Carpenter asked if the public is safer by requiring pre-doctorate and post-doctorate hours. He stated that the answer is probably the public is not any safer than if all hours are obtained pre-doctorate. Dr. Carpenter stated that ASPPB is negative about the issue.

Ms. Taxin commented that she understands that other States have different requirements but she would like to focus on Utah's requirements and Laws and Rules. She would like the Board to consider all information before making a decision. She stated that she is of the opinion that making a decision now is premature as there is not enough

information available on the effects to the Division, the applicant and the public with the Psychology profession decreasing the requirement of post-doctorate hours. She stated that if the Board makes a recommendation for all hours to be pre-doctorate hours the Law would have to be changed and that is a significant change.

Dr. Haas responded that if there is a change it might be difficult for Utah licensees to become licensed easily in other States.

Ms. Buhler stated that she wants to be sure the Board does not dilute the quality of the Psychologist. She stated that she does not have enough expertise to know for sure that the quality would not be diluted. Ms. Buhler stated that the pre-doctorate hours are determined by the educational institution.

Dr. Klein stated that ASPPB has been challenged on this issue as graduate students want to be able to complete all their requirements prior to graduation.

Dr. Merryweather commented that it does not appear to be a clear cut issue and he has reservations.

Dr. Klein stated that individuals may choose to complete the hours prior to graduating or they may finish the hours after they have graduated. She stated that maybe now is not the time for this change.

Ms. Taxin stated that the issue of when an individual may sit for the EPPP was also discussed at the Conference. She stated that different States believe people might have an easier time passing the EPPP if they could take it right out of college.

Dr. Klein responded that Ohio has changed their requirements to allow the EPPP to be taken right out of school.

Dr. Carpenter stated that he finds it interesting that APA and ASPPB have different thought patterns regarding when the hours should be completed and when the EPPP should be taken.

Dr. Klein responded that ASPPB thinks of their organization as a regulatory agency. She stated that APA considers the training of the Psychologist and protecting the public.

Dr. Klein stated that the Utah Association is prepared to run the Bill at the 2007 Legislative Session and would like the support of the Board. She stated that she would like to leave in the Law that hours may be completed after graduation in order for the graduate that is unable to complete the hours prior to graduation will have another option. Dr. Klein stated that she is open for assistance with the language. She stated that importing Psychologists from other States will not be a problem but exporting Utah licensees to other States might be difficult.

Dr. Haas stated that Dr. DeMers stated that they had complaints from graduates that could not be licensed in other States.

Dr. Carpenter stated that if other States won't accept the hours then the license will not be portable. Dr. Carpenter stated that he appreciated Craig Jackson, Division Director, voicing concerns about Utah being in the forefront.

Ms. Taxin stated that this discussion has been helpful and if there are problems and complaints then Utah will have to look at the issues again. Ms. Taxin stated that information would need to be gathered regarding the experience issue with the Utah Universities before she would feel informed enough to make a recommendation.

Dr. Haas responded that he would like to see the Law be more flexible.

Dr. Klein stated that the changes could be written in the Law to be effective in one or two years to give Ms. Taxin and the Board time to write the Rules.

Discussion took place regarding Laws being passed that would not be effective immediately. The Board stated they do not want a postponed Law.

Dr. Merryweather made a motion for DOPL and the Board to support the Association recommendation for the required 4000 hours to be completed after the Master's degree and prior to the Doctorate degree or after the Doctorate degree.

Dr. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Dr. Haas, Dr. Merryweather, Dr. Malovich and Dr. Carpenter voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Buhler voted against the motion. She stated that she is not comfortable with not requiring post-doctorate hours and is of the opinion that the Board is premature in making this change at this time.

Dr. Haas commented that he would like to review the Rules and update them after the 2007 Legislative Session is over so the Board will know if the proposed Psychology Law requiring no post-doctorate hours has passed and requires Rule changes.

2000 Post-Doctorate Hours being accrued in less than one Year

Ms. Taxin explained that an application was received that documents the applicant was working 16 hours a day to complete the Post-doctorate hours in less than one year. Ms. Taxin stated that the Law and Rules do not address a time frame regarding how many hours a week will count toward the 2000 Post-doctorate hours and how long a time to complete the hours.

Dr. Carpenter stated that the Board has accepted and established 40 hours a week unless approved by the Board.

Ms. Taxin confirmed when that the Mental Health Therapy Boards met in February 2006 it was agreed upon that 40 hours a week was accepted for mental health therapy experience practice.

Board members voiced agreement.

Dr. Haas suggested the Law be changed for clarification.

Ms. Buhler commented that the Association would

probably not want to include this change in the 2007 Legislative session as they would want to be focused on the changes they are recommending.

Ms. Buhler asked if the problem is the supervisor allowing too many hours or the Psychology Resident wanting to do too many hours.

Ms. Taxin responded that she is of the opinion that both the supervisor and the Psychology Resident are pushing for more hours.

Dr. Malovich stated that the Psychology Resident's want jobs that will allow them to work 60 hours a week to complete their hours as soon as possible in order to apply for full licensure.

The Board recommended the Division accept 40 to 45 hours a week.

Update regarding Letter of Completion versus Transcripts with the degree posted.

Dr. Haas brought up the subject of the Division accepting a letter noting coursework completion vs. an original transcript with the degree posted.

Dr. Carpenter reminded the Board that extensive discussion has taken place regarding the subject and that the Attorney General's Office has interpreted the Law to require original transcripts and recommended the Division not accept letters the Dean or Universities.

Dr. Haas stated that the Division is correct in requiring an original transcript with the degree posted.

Law and Rule Examination

Ms. Taxin explained that the Board has discussed the Law and Rule examination before. She reminded the Board that the Law requires passing an examination requirement as established by Division Rule and the Rule requires passing the Utah Psychology Law Examination with a score of not less than 75%. Ms. Taxin stated that the examination is open book and she is not sure that passing the Utah Law and Rule examination ensures an ethical and Law educated practitioner. Ms. Taxin explained that the application has an area that requires the applicant's signature that they have read and understand the Utah Laws and Rules. She stated that the anxiety of the applicants is

great and there have been registration problems with Thomson Prometric. Ms. Taxin asked if that is enough or if the Board would like to include questions in the application.

Dr. Carpenter responded that concern for the applicant and the suggestion of pulling the Utah Law and Rules examination is understood but he is not sure he is ready to have the examination requirement removed.

Dr. Haas recommended the options be reviewed later.

Ms. Taxin again stated that the options are:

1. Remove the requirement for a Utah Law and Rules Examination.
2. Include questions in the application.
3. Leave the Utah Law and Rules Examination as it currently stands.

4:15 P.M. – Dr. Merryweather left the meeting.

Ms. Taxin asked if the Board would like her to draft some questions or if they would like to come to the next Board meeting with 5 questions each.

Dr. Haas asked if the Board could review the current examination questions.

Ms. Taxin responded that the examination is a secure examination and reviewing the questions is not an option unless we schedule a review with Thomson Prometric.

Ms. Taxin stated that she has some questions written for other professions that the Board could review.

Dr. Carpenter responded that he would like to be pro-active and recommended Board members submit 5 questions to Ms. Taxin before the next Board meeting.

Ms. Taxin stated that she will have to pull the examination from Thomson Prometric if the problems continue as they have been.

2007 schedule

The Board noted the following dates for the 2007 Psychology Board Meeting Schedule: January 30, April 24, July 31 and October 2, 2007.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

January 30, 2006

MEETING ADJOURNED AT:

4:35 PM

Date Approved

Chairperson, Utah Psychology Licensing Board

Date Approved

Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing